

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference INT1013/MAJR	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/ZA 00/ 00176	International filing date (day/month/year) 21/09/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 30/09/1999
Applicant BILLITON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY B.V. et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.



the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :



contained in the international application in written form.



filed together with the international application in computer readable form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.



the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.



the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1



None of the figures.



as suggested by the applicant.



because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.



because this figure better characterizes the invention.

PCT

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

To:
McCALLUM RADEMEYER & FREIMOND
P.O. Box 1130
7 Maclyn House, Bordeaux
2125 Randburg
SOUTH AFRICA

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) 06/02/2001

Applicant's or agent's file reference
INT1013/MAJR

FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

International application No.
PCT/ZA 00/00176

International filing date
(day/month/year) 21/09/2000

Applicant

BILLITON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY B.V. et al.

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the International Search Report has been established and is transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:
The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no International Search Report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect is transmitted herewith.

3. ☐ **With regard to the protest** against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.

☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.


4. **Further action(s):** The applicant is reminded of the following:

Shortly after **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

Within **19 months** from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later).

Within **20 months** from the priority date, the applicant must perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before all designated Offices which have not been elected in the demand or in a later election within 19 months from the priority date or could not be elected because they are not bound by Chapter II.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority

 European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Maria Van der Hoeven

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the PCT Applicant's Guide, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only.

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:
"Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]:
"Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:
"Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or
"Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]:
"Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.
It must be in the language in which the international application is to be published.

It must be brief, not exceeding 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It may not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed

If, at the time of filing any amendments under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the same time of filing the amendments with the International Bureau, also file a copy of such amendments with the International Preliminary Examining Authority (see Rule 62.2(a), first sentence).

Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, where upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

McCALLUM RADEMEYER & FREIMOND
PO Box 1130
Randburg 2125
AFRIQUE DU SUD

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

13.12.2001

Applicant's or agent's file reference

INT.1013

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/ZA00/00176

International filing date (day/month/year)
21/09/2000

Priority date (day/month/year)
30/09/1999

Applicant

BILLITON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY B.V. et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/



European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Authorized officer

Eich, M

Tel. +49 89 2399-7578



REC'D 17 DEC 2001

WIPO

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference INT.1013	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/ZA00/00176	International filing date (day/month/year) 21/09/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 30/09/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C22B30/04		
Applicant BILLITON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY B.V. et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.


2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☒ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 18/04/2001	Date of completion of this report 13.12.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Boureau, J-L Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8454



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/ZA00/00176

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17):*)

Description, pages:

1-14 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-7 with telefax of 05/12/2001

Drawings, sheets:

1/5-5/5 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/ZA00/00176

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):
(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims 1-7
	No: Claims
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims 1-7
	No: Claims
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims 1-7
	No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

VI. Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

and / or

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/ZA00/00176

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US-A-5 820 966, cited in the application

D2: PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 009, no. 017 (C-262) &
JP 59 164639 A

D3: EP-A-1 059 361

2. **Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty,
inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations
supporting such statement**

2.1 **Claim 1**

Document D1 discloses a continuous method of disposing arsenic from acidic solutions containing copper and iron (column 4, Table 2), e.g. resulting from the treatment of smelter flue gases. The acidic solution is treated in a series of stirred tanks at a temperature of 75 °C (Table 1) with air addition.

In a first oxidation tank (22), As, Fe are completely oxidized by air and sulphur dioxide.

In a second conditioning tank (32), the solution is seeded with a precipitate including ferric arsenate which is obtained by neutralization with lime and recycled from a final tank (52,62).

In a third and fourth tanks (42,52), the solution is neutralized with lime to a pH of at least 7 for removing divalent non-ferrous metals and forming a stable ferric arsenate precipitate.

The method in accordance with claim 1 merely differs therefrom in that (i) in each of the tanks, a portion of ferrous iron is oxidized to ferric iron and ferric arsenate

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/ZA00/00176

is selectively precipitated, (ii) in that a portion of selectively precipitated ferric arsenate is recycled from the final to the first tank and (iii) in that the pH of the solution is maintained in the second tank at about 1.5.

Thus, the subject-matter of claim 1 is novel (Article 33(2) PCT). It is also inventive (Article 33(3) PCT) because the use of the above novel features in order to improve arsenic removal and to minimize copper precipitation is not rendered obvious by the prior art, e.g. by document D2.

2.2 **Claims 2 to 7** are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

3. **Re Item VI**

Certain documents cited

Document D3 claims the priority date of 06.06.1999. It has been filed on 30.05.2000 and published on 13.12.2000. Although its content is relevant, it does not belong to the prior art for the purpose of Article 33(2) and (3) PCT.

CLAIMS

1. A method of which includes the steps of:
 - (a) introducing an acidic solution containing arsenic(V), copper, ferric iron and ferrous iron into a first tank of a series of continuously stirred tank reactors and, in the first tank,
 - (b) adding air to the solution;
 - (c) heating the solution to an elevated temperature;
 - (d) recycling a portion of selectively precipitated ferric arsenate compounds to the said first tank; and
 - (e) seeding the solution with ferric arsenate compounds.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the seeding occurs to provide seeds for enhanced crystalline formation.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the molar ratio of iron to arsenic of the solution is at least 1.
4. A method according to claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein air is added, in step (b), to oxidise the ferrous iron to ferric iron.
5. A method according to any one of steps 1 to 4 wherein the solution is heated, in step (c), to increase the rate of ferric arsenate precipitation and to minimise copper co-precipitation.
6. A method according to any one claims 1 to 5 wherein the said elevated temperature is above 60°C and below 100°C.

Replaced by
Article 34

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7. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 6 which is conducted at atmospheric pressure.

8. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 7 which includes the step of:

(f) transferring solution from the said first tank to a second tank in the series of continuously stirred tank reactors.

9. A method according to claim 8 which includes the steps, in the second tank, of

(g) adding air to the solution;

(h) heating the solution to an elevated temperature; and

(i) selectively precipitating ferric arsenate compounds from the seeded aqueous solution with a first calcium-containing neutralising agent.

10. A method according to claim 9 wherein the molar ratio of iron to arsenic of the seeded solution in the second tank is at least 1.

11. A method according to claim 9 or 10 wherein air is added, in step (g), to oxidise ferrous iron of the seeded solution to ferric iron.

12. A method according to claim 9, 10 or 11 wherein the solution is heated, in step (h), to increase the rate of ferric arsenate precipitation and to minimise copper co-precipitation.

13. A method according to any one of claims 9 to 12 wherein the elevated temperature in step (h) is above 60°C and below 100 °C.

14. A method according to any one of claims 9 to 13 wherein the precipitation of ferric arsenate compounds in step (i) is conducted at atmospheric pressure and at a pH of at least about 1,5.

15. A method according to any one of claims 9 to 14 wherein the first neutralising agent used in step (i) is limestone.

16. A method according to any one of claims 9 to 15 which includes the step of :

(j) transferring solution from the second tank to a third tank in the series of continuously stirred tank reactors.

17. A method according to claim 16 which includes the steps, in the third tank, of:

(k) adding air to the solution;

(l) heating the solution to an elevated temperature; and

(m) selectively precipitating ferric arsenate compounds from the solution with a second calcium-containing neutralising agent.

18. A method according to claim 17 wherein the molar ratio of iron to arsenic of the solution in the third tank is at least 1.

19. A method according to claim 17 or 18 wherein air is added, in step (k), to oxidise ferrous iron of the solution to ferric iron.

20. A method according to claim 17, 18 or 19 wherein step (l) is used to increase the rate of ferric arsenate precipitation and to minimise copper co-precipitation.

21. A method according to any one of claims 17 to 20 wherein the elevated temperature in step (l) is above 60°C and below 100°C.

22. A method according to any one of claims 17 to 21 wherein the precipitation of ferric arsenate compounds in step (m) is conducted at atmospheric pressure and at a pH of at least about 1,9.

23. A method according to any one of claims 17 to 22 wherein the second neutralising agent used in step (m) is limestone.

24. A method according to any one of claims 17 to 23 which includes the step of :

(n) transferring solution from the third tank to a final tank in the series of continuously stirred tank reactors.

25. A method according to claim 24 which includes the steps, in the final tank, of :

(o) adding air to the solution;

(p) heating the solution to an elevated temperature; and

(q) selectively precipitating ferric arsenate compounds from the solution by holding the solution in the final tank.

26. A method according to claim 25 wherein the molar ratio of iron to arsenic of the solution in the final tank is at least 1.

27. A method according to claim 25 or 26 wherein air is added, in step (o), to oxidise ferrous iron of the solution to ferric iron.

28. A method according to claim 25, 26 or 27 wherein step (p) is used to increase the rate of ferric arsenate precipitation and to minimise copper co-precipitation.

29. A method according to any one of claims 25 to 28 wherein the elevated temperature in step (p) is above 60 °C and below 100 °C.

30. A method according to any one of claims 25 to 29 wherein the selective precipitation of ferric arsenate compounds in step (q) is conducted at atmospheric pressure.

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31. A method according to any one of claims 25 to 30 wherein the solution from the final tank is transferred to a separation unit where separation is undertaken to form a solid phase and a liquid phase.
32. A method according to claim 31 wherein a portion of the solid phase is recycled to the said first tank.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Commissioner
 US Department of Commerce
 United States Patent and Trademark
 Office, PCT
 2011 South Clark Place Room
 CP2/5C24
 Arlington, VA 22202
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
 in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year)
 29 June 2001 (29.06.01)

International application No.
 PCT/ZA00/00176

International filing date (day/month/year)
 21 September 2000 (21.09.00)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
 INT1013/MAJR

Priority date (day/month/year)
 30 September 1999 (30.09.99)

Applicant

BATTY, John, de Klerk

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:



in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

18 April 2001 (18.04.01)



in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election



was



was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO
 34, chemin des Colombettes
 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

Form PCT/IB/331 (July 1992)

Authorized officer

Eric LESOT (Fax 338.87.40)

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

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